

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE PRECINCT
MEETING
September 14, 2011**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Maureen Buckley, Commissioner
Gary Kubik, Commissioner
Steve LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Marketing

John Kane, Marketing Director, said the past weekend was a great one at the beach. The weather was beautiful.

Mr. Kane said *Yankee Publishing* is currently doing work for the State of NH. Hampton Beach will go into the lottery for top profile page. This not only helps NH push Hampton Beach, but it also goes all over Europe and Canada.

Mr. Kane said work is being done on the webcam. The camera will be put on the widow's walk on the stage building. Mr. Kane is also working with Comcast and WMUR. Mr. Kane thanked the Sea Ketch Restaurant for help with the camera this past summer.

Mr. Rage said the Chamber will be coming to next month's meeting. He said he would like to talk to them about getting a booth at the Montreal Travel Show. Mr. Kane said he will look into this.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. LaBranche said revenues are fully realized other than interest for the checking account. There was an \$8,700 overage in garage revenue. Most of expense accounts have been spent. At this time, there is approximately \$71,000 in the budget which has not been spent.

Mr. LaBranche discussed exemption applications for 2012. People can obtain these forms at the Assessor's Office, the beach website and the town website. These forms are not mailed out.

Mr. LaBranche said he has tried to research and get answers for any questions asked by residents. He said he had answers for June White. Ms. White questioned the fairness of garage revenues going to Culture & Recreation. Mr. La Branche said he talked to DAR, the Tax Assessor and Mike Schwotzer, Financial Officer for the town. DAR said that this can be changed by a vote at the Precinct meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that this should be done.

Moved by Commissioner Kubik, seconded by Chairman Rage, that the garage revenues will be applied to all expenses in order to set the tax rate for exempt and non-exempt taxpayers.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Beautification

Linda Gebhart said tulips have been planted around the monument and daffodils have been planted in the garden and urns by the Ashworth. Ms. Gebhart said she had put cornstalks in the island by the Ocean Wok.

Ms. Gebhart thanked Richard Reniere for again mowing around 101.

Nancy Stiles has a new bill to up the fine on graffiti to \$1,000. A professional company volunteered to remove the graffiti on the monument and it looks much better. Ms. Gebhart mentioned that there are other areas on state property which have graffiti. Chairman Rage said the State is working on this problem.

Ms. Gebhart said Joyce Grandmaison told her that they are close to finding a stone to put a plaque on. There will be no expense to the Precinct.

Ms. Gebhart said she had planted six very large mums donated by the Casassa family around the flagpole at the State Park.

Ms. Gebhart asked the Commissioners for permission to do a "Haunted Firehouse" in the meeting room at the fire station. This would be held on October 30th and will be for children 12 and under who must be accompanied by an adult. It was decided that a good time to hold this event would be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ms. Gebhart thanked Owen Carter and Ben's Beach Supply & Gifts for donating items for gift bags for the children. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that this would be a great event.

Old Business

Chairman Rage said he and Commissioners Kubik and Buckley met with legal counsel who suggested the following be read and included in the Minutes.

Moved by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to include the following in the Minutes of October 12, 2011:

STATEMENT FOR OCTOBER 12, 2011 MEETING

As a result of events occurring this summer within the community, the Commissioners are now clarifying what roles commissioners play and what role voters play. The commissioners are the legally authorized representatives of the Precinct voters. Only they have the legal authority to do business and enter into contracts on behalf of the voters. Voters who volunteer to do various things within the Precinct are greatly appreciated and their work is valuable, but they have no authority to incur obligations on behalf of the Precinct.

Going forward, the Commissioners would like it understood that the decision to proceed with Precinct sponsored festivals or events will be made by a majority of the Commissioners during a monthly meeting and that until the decision is made, no assumptions should be made about whether an event is to take place or any of the specifics. If the Commissioners decide to proceed with an event, then the Commissioners will contact the necessary parties to set up contracts and the like. Voters who want to volunteer working on other aspects of events are of course welcome to do so.

Additionally, only the Commissioners are authorized to contact individuals or firms who provide professional services to the Precinct such as accountants, lawyers or insurers. This is necessary because contacts from unauthorized individuals would result in bills for the professional services and the Commissioners need to control the amount of expenditures.

Finally, a debt was incurred this summer in the amount of \$678 in connection with the Harvest Moon Festival, and this debt was not authorized by the Commissioners. In the interest of maintaining good relations with the vendor, the Commissioners have determined that it is in the best interest of the Precinct to pay this bill.

Vote: 2-0-1 (Kubik). Motion passed.

New Business

Commissioner Kubik said he had received some calls from fireworks companies who would like to come to a meeting and give a presentation. He said he felt the Commissioners should get some different bids. All Commissioners agreed.

Chairman Rage said he talked to Greg Grady and he will probably be on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Kubik, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to approve the Minutes of September 14, 2011.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Ave., came forward. Mr. Reniere asked about the correct mailing address for the Precinct. Mr. LaBranche said the address is Hampton Beach Village District, P.O. Box 1472, Hampton, NH 03843-1472. Chairman Rage said he could always be reached at 603-926-3364 or rages@comcast.net.

Mr. Reniere said he felt a vote should be taken to authorize the Haunted Firehouse event.

Moved by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to authorize Linda Gebhart to proceed with the Haunted Firehouse event to take place on October 30, 2011.

Vote: 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Michael Pierce, Selectman, came forward. Mr. Pierce said the warrant articles are going to be discussed next Monday, October 17th at the Board of Selectmen meeting. This will include an article for the fire station. The beach fire station will be the main point of the article. Mr. Pierce said he believed an agreement was needed from the Commissioners. Chairman Rage said he believed the Commissioners have already approved the beach fire station, but he will check with legal counsel.

June White, 8 River Ave., came forward. Ms. White thanked all the people who helped with the Fall Festival. There was an estimated attendance of around 9,000 people. Ms. White also thanked the businesses. Commissioner Kubik thanked June for her work on the festival.

Ms. Gebhart said she would like to know what happens to money designated for a specific thing (i.e., the Fall Festival) if it isn't used. Chairman Rage said it goes back into the budget. Mr. LaBranche said the budget that was approved has a bottom line. Each individual line is up to the Commissioners. One line might get over-spent, another under-spent, but the bottom line is what counts.

Mr. Kane said the main bathroom will stay open year round to accommodate walkers, etc.

Hampton Beach Village Precinct
October 12, 2011
Page 5

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary